

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01

OMB-01 INRE-00 OC-06 FPC-01 SCEM-02 RSR-01 OCL-00

/145 W

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O R 061725 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3682

INFO ATO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, CS

SUBJECT: ELECTRICITY CRISIS: GOCR ISSUES ADDITIONAL
EMERGENCY DECREE

REF: SAN JOSE 1173, 1194

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FIGUERES HAS DECREED
VACATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS DURING APRIL 11-22 PERIOD,
AND ASKED ALL INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY POWER SHUTOFFS
TO FOLLOW SUIT. PRESIDENT ALSO TOLD THE PRESS HE WILL
REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM USG, POSSIBLY
IN FORM OF GENERATING BARGES WHICH HE THINKS ARE
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AVAILABLE IN THE CANAL ZONE. EMBASSY STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE, BUT EXPECTS IT MAY BE FORTHCOMING FOLLOWING EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DETERMINE AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY GENERATING EQUIPMENT. END OF SUMMARY.

1. THE GOCR HAS ISSUED AN ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY DECREE, PROHIBITING USE OF ELECTRICITY FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES THROUGH MAY 25, AND ASKING ALL INDUSTRIES IN RATIONED AREAS TO GIVE THEIR EMPLOYEES VACATION AT LEAST BETWEEN APRIL 12 AND 21. (APRIL 11 IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND APRIL 19 AND 20 ARE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, SO THIS INVOLVES LOSS OF ONLY 6 WORKING DAYS.) THE DECREE ALSO DECLARES VACATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, FROM APRIL 12 THROUGH 18. ALL ELECTRICITY USERS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE SMALL DOWNTOWN AREA WHICH STILL HAS POWER, ARE URGED TO REDUCE THEIR CONSUMPTION BY 50 PERCENT. THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (PRESIDENT'S CABINET) IS MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 6 TO CONSIDER FURTHER MEASURES.

2. PRESIDENT FIGUERES TOLD THE PRESS AFTERNOON OF APRIL 5 HE WILL ASK THE USG TO PROVIDE GENERATING CAPACITY ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS. HE REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING GENERATORS AND/ OR GENERATING BARGES FROM THE CANAL ZONE. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOCR.

3. MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION SILVA TOLD THE EMBASSY PRIVATELY THAT ONE OF THE 19,000 KW GAS TURBINES IS NOW INSTALLED AND IS BEING TEST RUN AND THAT INSTALLATION OF THE OTHER ONE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID APRIL. HE THOUGHT THESE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ABOUT ONE- HALF OF NEEDED EMERGENCY GENERATING CAPACITY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CONTRACTING FIRM IS PAYING A \$500 PER DAY PENALTY FOR LATE COMPLETION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WOULD INDICATE INSTALLATION IS BEING UNDERTAKEN

AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM STATUS
OF AND PROBLEMS IN TURBINE INSTALLATION WITH CONTRACTING FIRM.

4. IN ANTICIPATION THAT FORMAL REQUEST FOR USG
ASSISTANCE MAY BE RECEIVED FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENT MEETING THIS MORNING, EMBASSY URGES
DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DETERMINE
AVAILABILITY AND DELIVERABILITY OF EMERGENCY GENER-
ATING EQUIPMENT, BOTH FROM U. S. AND CANAL ZONE.
VAKY

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: ENRG, CS
To: ARA
ATO WASHDC
GUATEMALA
MANAGUA
PANAMA
SAN SALVADOR
SECSTATE WASHDC

TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

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